

CALVARY CONTENDER ARTICLES

October 2, 1999 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The following information is from recent issues of the Calvary Contender. Jerry Huffman is the editor of this bi-weekly paper. The full issues are available on the web at <http://home.hiwaay.net/~contendr> --

AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION HOMOSEXUAL 'CHURCHES' -- There are 37 congregations in the liberal American Baptist Churches USA that belong to the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, a caucus that encourages participation by homosexuals (7/22 Huntsville Times). Rev. Esther Hargis, the pastor of one of four churches recently expelled (see 8/1 CC), has now been notified that due to several protests, the expulsions have been frozen, a step toward a reprieve (Calvary Contender, August 15, 1999).

CAMPOLO WON'T SAY JESUS ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN -- On CNN's Crossfire with Jerry Falwell, Tony Campolo refused to say Jesus is the only way to heaven. He said, "I am not convinced that Jesus only lives in Christians" (Calvary Contender, August 15, 1999).

CANADA UPHOLDS LESBIANS AS FAMILY UNIT -- The Supreme Court of Canada recently recognized two lesbians as a family unit. Dr. Frank McClelland in the 6/99 Canadian Revivalist notes that a main purpose of the family unit is procreation. Homosexuals can't reproduce, so those traits can't be passed on. Thus it is not an inherent but largely a learned behavior. Homosexual practices are both unscriptural and unnatural, condemned by both Bible doctrine and human practice. "Gay" is a misnomer: "98% of 'gay' people are desperately unhappy" (Calvary Contender, September 1, 1999).

AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION HAS CATHOLIC SPEAKERS -- Matt Costella (7-8/99 Foundation) filed a firsthand report of the June Biennial Meeting of the American Baptist Churches USA. He said the ABC wholeheartedly embraces and teaches a "social gospel," that the purpose of the church is to change society to advance the kingdom of God. He discussed the ABC's homosexual problem and its ecumenical inclusion of speakers from other denominations at the biennial meetings, including Roman Catholics. He said: "The ABC Minister's Council met during the first day of the biennial and heard Adrienne Kaufmann, a Benedictine Sister from the Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, SD, speak on the theme, 'Substantive Dialogue: A Tool for Congregations to Deal With Potentially Divisive Issues Without Becoming Divided.' (In a past biennial, a Roman Catholic cardinal preached at a plenary session)" (Calvary Contender, September 1, 1999).

MAX LUCADO HAS 'BOOK OF THE YEAR' -- Max Lucado's best-selling book Just Like Jesus was recently named the Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (8/1 Christian News). Yet he is pastor of Oak Hills Church of Christ (Campbellite--see 6/15 CC) near San Antonio. Lucado was a featured speaker at a Promise Keepers clergy meeting in Atlanta. He signed the ecumenical ECT ('Evangelicals & Catholics Together') and ECT II ('The Gift of Salvation') documents (3/1 CC). He wants to break down denominational walls (Calvary Contender, September 1, 1999).

MacARTHUR PRAISES HAYFORD -- In Jack Hayford's 1997 book, Pastors of Promise, popular author and speaker John MacArthur praises Hayford, the hyper-charismatic pastor of the 9,000-member Foursquare Gospel Church on the Way. Robert Schuller, Bill Hybels, Chuck Colson, Bill Bright, and Greg Laurie have also praised him. Hayford promotes Promise Keepers, serves on its board, and speaks at major ecumenical PK events. George Zeller, 349 East St., Middletown, CT 06457, has a huge near 100-page report on MacArthur's unscriptural teachings for \$7 (Calvary Contender, September 1, 1999).

WHY NAME NAMES? -- Some say "criticize teachings, not the teachers," but we can't always separate the two. An article in the 6/99 Vanguard discusses this: 1. It is Biblical to name names. Paul did it positively to commend ministries (1 Cor. 16, Phil. 2:25, Col. 4), and negatively to warn against ministries (1 Tim. 1, 2 Tim. 4). John also was specific (3 Jn. 9,10). 2. It is consistent to name names negatively if we are happy about praising people positively (e.g., biographies of Luther, Spurgeon, Wesley). Is it not equally just to speak as clearly about men who are instrumental against God? And when we write, we [identify men] not that you

might hate them, but rather that you might “beware” of them (2 Tim. 4:15). 3. It is practical to name names. Sadly, people often follow preachers [big name personalities] rather than preaching [and, thus to warn such people, we must name names]. 4. It is historical to name names. Throughout church history, men have not shrunk from clearly stating against whom they are objecting, as well as against what. But in our day, “not hurting people’s feelings” often seems more important than “speaking the truth in love” (Calvary Contender, September 1, 1999).

PENSACOLA ‘REVIVAL’ GOES TO OTHER CITIES -- Evangelist Steve Hill, Brownsville Assembly of God pastor John Kilpatrick and worship leader Lindell Cooley took their Awake America crusade to E. Rutherford, NJ, June 28-29 (9/99 Charisma). The crusade was headed by an interdenominational steering committee of 15 local pastors. After the crusade, participating churches will continue working together on other evangelistic programs. “We’ve come together in unity, in the Spirit.” said Father Joe Romanoski of Sacred Heart, a Catholic church in South Amboy, NJ. “This event is not an Assemblies of God event, a Lutheran event or a Catholic event-it’s a Jesus event. We’ve put all the other stuff on the side...” (Calvary Contender, September 15, 1999).

FALWELL MEETING FEATURES CHARISMATIC CYMBALA & SBC LEADERS AS SPEAKERS -- Slated speakers for Dr. Jerry Falwell’s Super Conference ‘99, Oct. 3-6, include the current and three former Southern Baptist Convention presidents. Also featured is Jim Cymbala, pastor of the huge Brooklyn Tabernacle, and his choir. After a positive review of his book Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire appeared in the IFCA’s July-Aug. ‘97 Voice, Pastor Gary Gilley termed Cymbala a “charismatic minister.” In a short review in the Jan.-Feb. ‘99 Voice Gilley said he believed Cymbala’s book to be “a largely unbiblical, quasi-Charismatic, mystical approach to Christian living.” Cymbala was a listed speaker for a “Pentecost, Prophecy & Power” conference at Central Assembly of God (Springfield, Mo., March 8-10), which also featured AOG leader Thomas Trask, and Brownsville Assembly of God (“Pensacola Outpouring”) Worship Leader Lindell Cooley (12/98 Charisma). How can Falwell continue cavorting with charismatics and Southern Baptists and remain in good standing with the BBF? (Calvary Contender, September 15, 1999).

CATHOLIC CHARISMATICS IN ITALY -- There are 250,000 Italian Catholic charismatics (9/99 Charisma). Pentecostal leader Remo Cristallo brands the Catholic charismatic renewal in Italy a fake. “By imitating our songs and our style of worship, the Catholic charismatics fool people into believing you can make do without the gospel,” he told Charisma. He stresses that the unity being offered by the Catholic Church is political: “Spiritually, nothing has changed.” For him, fellowshiping with Catholics means compromising biblical Christianity because he believes two churches will emerge in the future-“a political church and an underground church” (Calvary Contender, September 15, 1999).